



Sadie Weiner

Update

1 message

To: Sadie Weiner
Gov. Cooper

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Governor Cooper urges environmental mitigation, careful scrutiny as pipeline moves forward

RALEIGH: North Carolina will work toward a renewable energy future and rural economic development with the establishment of the North Carolina Mitigation Trust, Governor Roy Cooper said Friday.

The announcement comes as the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) issues the requested water permit for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP).

ACP and its partners Dominion Power and Duke Energy will put \$58.7 million into the fund to be used for environmental mitigation initiatives such as reducing the carbon footprint and expansion of renewable energy sources, as well as access to natural gas in eastern North Carolina to help with economic development.

"My goal for North Carolina is full reliance on renewable energy to build our future in an environmentally sound way," Cooper said. "But we know the path to running fully on renewables will take time, and until then, we will need natural gas to move away from the pollution of coal-fired plants."

DEQ will also carefully monitor construction and operation of the pipeline, which has conditional water permits from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the state of West Virginia and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

"Preserving clean water and the integrity of the communities where this pipeline is constructed will be a priority," Cooper said. "I have asked our environmental regulators at DEQ to continue to insist on clean water, effective sedimentation control and high air quality along the path of the construction. The same people who write the permits also will be diligent in holding the project accountable for water, land and air safety."

DEQ required ACP to submit additional application information on five occasions. Based on information received in that process and feedback during a public comment period, the water permit includes numerous stringent requirements including stream and wetland monitoring and protection, well testing, regular inspections, and construction stormwater protections.

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DRAFT: Jan. 25, 2018
ACP comments

The Atlantic Coast Pipeline answers an energy need for North Carolina. It also must make good on the promise of economic growth.

The energy need is that natural gas will be used to generate more of our electricity, producing less CO₂ in the process.

The ultimate goal is an energy future powered with 100% renewables. North Carolina is second in the country with solar energy and battery storage research is moving forward.

But we know the path to running fully on renewables will take time, and until that goal is achieved, we will need natural gas to to move away from the pollution of coal-fired plants.

With this power source, we can recruit jobs, economic development and growth where our state needs it most.

More than 4,000 jobs and economic activity, and \$X every year in property tax revenue will result from ACP construction.

I challenge Dominion Resources and Duke Energy: You've promised that the ACP will bring jobs to eastern North Carolina. Make your promise come true..

Produce the jobs, provide natural gas and do it while being good stewards of North Carolina's land and water.

To help make sure they do, we have established a trust fund that will provide \$57.8 million toward environmental mitigation and economic development along the path of the pipeline.

This fund, provided by the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, will be dedicated solely to North Carolina.

It has two purposes: First, making this region of our state more carbon neutral. In other words, to establish renewable and cost-saving energy projects.

Fossil-fuel use mostly powers North Carolina now, but we are moving away from that dependence and toward a more renewable and cleaner energy future. Renewables like solar, wind-powered energy, biomass and more.

[Paris Accord, CPP comments]

[solar MOU discussion and legislation]

Second, it will be used to spur economic development in business-ready communities in eastern North Carolina that lack easy or affordable access to natural gas.

We will be asking the public to share recommendations on how best to use this fund for North Carolina's future.

At the same time, we will be carefully monitoring the construction project.

While the pipeline presents a promise, for some residents it's a change to their way of life or the lay of the land and waters in their communities.

North Carolina's environmental regulators take this seriously. Our DEQ permitting staff members have asked the right questions, pushing when they needed more information and studying the pipeline proposal intently.

They will continue to insist on clean water, effective sedimentation control and high air quality along the path of the construction. The same people who write the permits also will be diligent in holding the project accountable for water, land and air safety.

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